

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HEW-04 AID-05 FRB-03 USIA-06

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 OIC-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3249

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 4401

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO ELAB SZ

SUBJ: ILO CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) STATE 219510 B) BERN 4117 C) BERN 3617

1. SUMMARY: DANILE HOROWITZ, HEAD US DELEGATION TO ILO MET WITH SWISS GOVT AND TRADE UNION OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ILO MATTERS DURING VISIT TO BERN SEPT 15. SWISS GOVT OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN HOROWITZ' VIEWS MAY-JUNE ILO CONFERENCES. HOROWITZ NOTED MIXED RESULTS, STRESSED THAT US DESIRES REMAIN IN ILO BUT WILL LEAVE IF PROBLEMS AND NEGATIVE TREND PERSIST. SWISS SAID THEY SHARED SOME US VIEWS OF ILO PROBLEMS, OFFERED EXERT THEIR INFLUENCE ENDEAVOR IMPROVE SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT. FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS ILO DELEGATE SAID THAT ILO DECISIONS SET IMPORTANT STANDARDS PRECEDENT FOR EVENTUAL IMPLEMENTATION IN SWITZERLAND, ALSO DEPLORED UNSEEMLY BEHAVIOR SOME DELEGATES AT LATEST CONFERENCES. DISCUSSIONS WERE CANDID; SWISS EXTREMELY PLEASED OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH HOROWITZ, WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT BETWEEN ILO DELEGATIONS AT GENEVA.

2. HOROWITZ VISITED BERN SEPT 15 IN FOLLOW UP TO CONTACTS

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BEGUN DURING JUNE ILO CONFERENCES WITH SWISS DELEGATION.

AFTER BRIEFING EMBASSY OFFICERS, HOROWITZ AND EMBOFF
ELI BIZIC MET WITH FOLLOWING OFFICIALS.

A) FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPT:
MINISTER FRANCESCA POMMETTA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS
FRANZ MUHEIM, DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS
DR ARMIN KAMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, UN AFFAIRS
FRANCOIS NORDMANN, SECRETARY TO FEDERAL COUNCILOR
GRABER (FOREIGN MINISTER)

B) FEDERAL OFFICE OF INDUSTRY, TRADES AND LABOR (OFIAMT):
JEAN-PIERRE BONNY, DIRECTOR, OFIAMT
CHRISTIAN MOERCH, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

C) SWISS FEDERATION TRADE UNIONS:
ARNOLD ISLER, PRESS SECRETARY
JEAN CLIVAZ, ILO DELEGATE

3. SWISS ASKED ABOUT STATUS US-ILO RELATIONS, I.E. US
LETTER INTENT LEAVE ILO, AND US IMPRESSIONS MAY-JUNE ILO
CONFERENCES. HOROWITZ BRIEFED SWISS ALONG LINES STATE
186432, 169759 AND 168519 NOTING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE
ASPECTS THREE CONFERENCES HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY.
RE US LETTER INTENT LEAVE ILO, HOROWITZ SAID US
ENCOURAGED AFTER JUNE MEETING BUT FEELS EXPERIENCE
OF CONFERENCES INSUFFICIENT BASIS TO JUDGE ENTIRE
TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND DECIDE WHETHER REMAIN. JUDGEMENT
ALSO DEPENDS ON WHAT US PERCEIVES FUTURE TREND WILL BE.
US CONCERNED THAT INITIAL POSITIVE REACTION
IS ONLY TEMPORARY, AND WOULD COME TO AN END IF US ANNOUNCED
DECISION TO REMAIN. US WANTS TO STAY IN BUT WILL LEAVE IF
PRESENT PROBLEMS AND TRENDS PERSIST.
US DOES NOT SEEK POLARIZATION ILO INTO CONFLICTING
BLOCS AND HOPES EXPAMPLE OF COOPERATION BY DEVELOPED
INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES COULD BECOME NUCLEUS
FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH SHARE BASIC IDEALS
ILO.

4. HOROWITZ EXPLAINED THAT US HAS CABINET LEVEL ILO
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COMMITTEE, AND US POLICY TOWARD ILO REFLECTS NATIONAL
VIEWPOINT, UNLIKELY CHANGE OVER SHORT TERM. HE
STRESSED US DOES NOT WANT SEE ILO BECOME ANNUAL ECONOMIC
CONFERENCE; ROUNDS OF SPEECHES MAKE IT DIFFICULT GENERATE
FRUITFUL DISCUSSION. HOROWITZ SAID HE IS SCHEDULING
VISITS TO KEY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA, AFRICA AND
LATIN AMERICA, AND HOPED US EFFORT WILL HELP IN
DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON ISSUES AND APPROACHES FOR NEXT YEAR'S

CONFERENCE; DISCUSSIONS WITH SOME ARAB
DELEGATES HAD ALREADY OCCURED.

5. POMETTA SAID FPD SHARES
CONCERN DISREGARD ILO REGULATIONS, POLITICIZATION AND
HUMAN RIGHTS DOUBLE STANDARD. BONNY BELIEVED US
NOV 1975 LETTER HAD POSITIVE IMPACT AND PRODUCED
DESIRED RESULTS, PARTICULARLY AMONG G-77. HE NOTED
SWISS LABOR AND MANAGEMENT DESIRE ILO BECOME EFFECTIVE
INSTRUMENT RESOLVE LABOR ISSUES WHICH DIFFICULT AT BEST IF POLI-
TICIZATION CONTINUES. SWISS CONVINCED ILO NEEDED DESPITE DEFECTS;
BELIEVES
US IMPORTANT TO ILO AND GREAT LOSS IF LEFT. SWISS HOPED
US WOULD JUDGE SITUATION PERMITS IT REMAIN. POMETTA
SAID GOS WILLING HELP AVOID TOO GREAT POLITICIZATION.
SHE ALSO WONDERED IF US NOTICE INTENT LEAVE HAD NEGATIVE
IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION OTHER COUNTRIES DETRIMENTAL TO
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

6. BONNY SKEPTICAL UTILITY WEC; CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION
UNSATISFACTORY. HOWEVER, RESULT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE; THERE
WAS GOOD COOPERATION DURING SECOND PART CONFERENCE AND IT SHOULD
HELP RESINSTATE OBSERVANCE OF TRIPARTITE PRINCIPLE THAT CONFERENCE
PRESIDENTS VIEWS DID NOT
PREVAIL ON LAST NIGHT. KAMMER THOUGHT WORST AVOIDED WHEN
GOVERNING BODY, NOT CONFERENCE, HANDLED PLO ISSUE. HOROWITZ
NOTED OUTCOME SAME. EVEN THOUGH RESULT SUCH THAT US COULD
REMAIN IN
CONFERENCE; THE MOST RESPONSIBLE ILO BODY VIOLATED
OWN PROCEDURAL RULES. HOROWITZ STRESSED SPECIAL TRIPARTITE NATURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD ENABLE ILO RESOLVE PROBLEMS
DIFFERENTLY THAN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. BONNY
DISAPPOINTED ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD FAILED
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EXERCISE CONTROL AND GIVE DIRECTION TO CONFERENCES.
BONNY AND POMETTA SAID SWISS COULD EXERT INFLUENCE
TO IMPROVE SECRETARIAT EFFICIENCY. THOUGH SWISS
GENERALLY SILENT, THEY DID COMPLAIN IN LETTER TO
BLANCHARD LAST SPRING THAT SECRETARIAT INEFFECTIVE.
SWISS FEEL DG SHOULD PROTECT HIMSELF BY INSISTING
ILO RULES BE OBSERVED NOT MAKE EXCEPTIONS WHICH DISTORT
ILO PURPOSE.

7. SWISS ASKED HOROWITZ COMMENT ROLE AFL-CIO PRESIDENT
MEANEY IN SHAPING US LABOR POLICY TOWARD ILO. HOROWITZ
EXPLAINED MEANEY REFLECTS LABOR VIEWPOINT; REFERRED
SWISS TO SPEECHES AFL-CIO SECRETARY-TREASURER LANE
KIRKLAND PRINTED JULY AND AUGUST AFL-CIO FREE TRADE
UNION NEWS FOR LABOR VIEW ILO. (EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY

PROVIDED COPIES).

8. MUHEIM QUESTIONED HOW WESTERN COUNTRIES COULD REACT TO THIRD WORLD MOVES WITHOUT APPEARING AS BLOC AND SUGGESTED ILO CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE REFORMED TO MODERNIZE OLD SYSTEM. HOROWITZ RECOGNIZED THESE QUESTIONS IMPORANT BUT REJECTED PREMISE EXISTING ILO CONSTITUTION UNWORKABLE. BONNY SAID THAT REAL PROBLEM IS HOW CONCERNED PARTIES COULD OBTAIN COMMONLY DESIRED RESULTS WITHOUT CREATING NEW ORGANIZATION AND NEW PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION. HE SIAD SWISS WOULD ENDEAVOR CONSOLIDATE VIEWS WITHIN SWISS DELEGATION AND SEEK INTENSIFY CONTACTS WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. HOROWITZ AGREED MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH SWISS WHENEVER IN GENEVA, PROBABLY NOVEMBER AND MARCH.

9. CLIVAZ SAID THAT SWISS TRADE UNIONS ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANT TO ILO ACTIVITIES. ILO DECISIONS ESTABLISH DESIRABLE STANDARDS THAT TRADE UNIONS CAN MORE EASILY URGE UPON MANAGEMENT BECAUSE OF ILO APPROVAL, THOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE SEVERAL YEARS GAIN ACCEPTANCE. HE SHARED US CONCERN OVER VIOLATION ILO RULES AND DEPLORED BEHAVIOUR SOME ILO DELEGATIONS AT JUNE CONFERENCES.

10. EMBASSY COMMENT: SWISS GENUINELY PLEASED WITH OPPORTUNITY CONSULT WITH HOROWITZ. SWISS BELIEVE THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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CAN MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION ON MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND WELCOME VISITS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS TO BERN WHO ARE IN SWITZERLAND FOR MEETINGS IN GENEVA.
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